



Cottonwood Valley Bank

Member FDIC

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09/09/2005

FDIC San Francisco Regional Office
Director John F. Carter
25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300
San Francisco, CA 94105

RE: Wal-Mart ILC Application
aka: Wal-Mart Bank Application

Dear Mr. Carter,

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to express my concern for our industry.

The systemic risk posed by a Wal-Mart bank would be enormous. Wal-Mart already controls 8% of the non-restaurant, non-automotive sales in the U.S. With a branch of Wal-Mart Bank in every store, it would represent a dangerous and unprecedented concentration of economic power.

Wal-Mart has wiped out local Grocery Businesses, Hardware Stores, Pharmacies, Flower/Garden Shops and Auto Service Stations across America. One industry that has been left alone is the banking industry. Please let me remind Americans that each community basically started with one or all of the above businesses. Wal-Mart grew into each of these industries and the communities began to dry up. Now the only piece of pie left untouched is the Banking Industry. Where is that going to leave our communities?

For Example, please look at our area, Marion and Chase County, Kansas. Each county is a 20 to 55 minute drive away from the nearest Wal-Mart (Newton, Hutchinson, Junction City, Manhattan, McPherson, Emporia, Topeka, El Dorado, Wichita and Salina, KS). We are surrounded! Our schools are struggling for enrollment and new housing starts are very low if any. We do have businessmen and women working in our community. ***They struggle to maintain their businesses for the love of the community, the moral values the community represents and not "the almighty dollar."***

Please do not allow Wal-Mart to add to their monopoly by placing Community Banks on the long list of "Endangered Industries".

Thank you for your time,

Kelly L. Linnens
Third Generation VP, Cottonwood Valley Bank
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